

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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R 021627Z NOV 76  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6708  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY OSLO

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EUR FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VINE  
DEPARTMENT PASS EC BRUSSELS IF DESIRED

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, NO, FR  
SUBJECT: SVALBARD: NORWEGIAN EMBASSY IMPRESSIONS OF  
FRYDENLUND'S VISIT TO PARIS

REF: PARIS 30821 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: NORWEGIAN EMBASSY IN PARIS NOT OVERLY  
ENCOURAGED FRYDENLUND'S SVALBARD TALKS WITH FRENCH. NOR-  
WEGIANS WERE IMPRESSED NEW FRENCH COMPREHENSION OF AND  
SYMPATHY FOR /NORWAY'S PROBLEMS WITH USSR. HOWEVER THERE  
WAS UNHELPLEFULLY SHARP LEGAL DISCUSSION OF DIFFERENT  
VIEWS CN CONTINENTAL SHELF WHICH REMAIN UNCHANGED. IN  
THIS CONNECTION, NORWEGIANS MAY HOWEVER HAVE UNDER-ESTI-  
MATED POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE OF DE LABOULAYE'S TWICE-  
REPEATED PROMISE TO DISCUSS PROBLEM FURTHER WITH QUAI  
LAWYERS. THEY THEMSELVES SEE SOME SLIGHT HOPE IN  
EXPLCITING FRENCH INTEREST IN NATURAL GAS AND IN OIL  
ABOVE 62ND PARALLEL AS TRADE-OFF FOR GREATER FRENCH FLEX-  
IBILITY ON CONTINENTAL SHELF. REPORT OF FRENCH IMPRES-  
SIONS SEPTTEL. END SUMMARY.

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2. NORWEGIAN POLCOUNSELOR GRIEG, ACTING ON SPECIAL PERMISSION OBTAINED FROM FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND, GAVE EMBOFF "FULL" ACCOUNT FRYDENLUND'S PARIS SVALBARD CONVERSATIONS IN VIEW OF "HELPFUL AMERICAN INTEREST" REFLECTED VINE CONSULTATIONS.

3. ON BALANCE NORWEGIANS LEFT PARIS NOT OVERLY ENCOURAGED BY FRENCH REACTIONS SVALBARD ISSUES. IN FIRST INSTANCE, DE GUIRINGAUD WAS NOT UP ON THIS COMPLEX SUBJECT AND THEREFORE SOUNDED HARDEST, BECAUSE HE WAS LARGELY REPEATING STANDARD FRENCH POSITIONS. SECONDLY, ALTHOUGH NORWEGIANS RECOGNIZED THAT POLITICAL DIRECTOR DE LABOULAYE WAS THEIR REAL INTERLOCUTOR, THEY THEMSELVES MAY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR PRECIPITATING THE RESPONSES THEY GOT, SINCE, IN CONTRAST TO VINE DISCUSSIONS IN OSLO, FRYDENLUND MENTIONED AND ELABORATED ON REASONS WHY NORWEGIANS CLAIM SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE CONTINENTAL SHELF.

4. ON THIS CENTRAL QUESTION GRIEG SAYS FRYDENLUND FLOATED IDEA OF A 200 MILE TEMPORARY FISHING REGIME "FOR CONSERVATION" AROUND SVALBARD IN CONTEXT THAT THIS WOULD NOT PREJUDICE NORWEGIAN POSITION ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF. DE LABOULAYE SHOT BACK WITH, WHAT ABOUT BEAR'S ISLAND?; AND ARGUED THAT IN VIEW OF FRENCH LAWYERS SVALBARD HAS ITS OWN CONTINENTAL SHELF. NORWEGIANS, WITH VIEW SPECIAL FRENCH INTERESTS WITH RESPECT ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON AND OTHER ISLANDS RESPONDED THAT THEY DO NOT DISAGREE AS MATTER OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, THAT ISLANDS CAN HAVE OWN CONTINENTAL SHELVES, AND EVEN ELABORATED ON THIS POINT ON SECOND DAY OF TALKS. IN THEIR CASE, HOWEVER, NORWEGIANS REITERATED THERE IS A CONTINUING CONTINENTAL SHELF BETWEEN MAINLAND AND SVALBARD. FURTHERMORE, SINCE TREATY ONLY GIVES SIGNATORIES MINING EXPLOITATION RIGHTS IN FOUR MILE ZONE FROM MAINLAND, NORWEGIANS CONSIDER THAT ABSENCE OF SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO SUCH RIGHTS BEYOND THAT MEANS THAT THEY DO NOT EXIST. FRENCH, ARGUING ON BASIS OF ROMAN LAW, MAINTAINED OPPOSITE CONCLUSION.

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5. DISCUSSION APPARENTLY BECAME NOTICEABLY EASIER WHEN IT MOVED TO MORE PRAGMATIC GROUND. THE NORWEGIANS EXPLAINED AT LENGTH WHY, IN THEIR VIEW OPENING UP CONTINENTAL SHELF TO OIL EXPLORATION COULD LEAD TO "MESS" IN A REGION SO DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO MAJOR EAST-WEST STRATEGIC INTERESTS. IT WOULD THEREFORE BE MUCH BETTER IDEA FOR GON TO CONTROL AND TO REGULATE THIS PROCESS

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ACTION SS-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY OSLO

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"VERY SLOWLY," WHICH GRIEG SAID WAS WAY OF SAYING THAT NORWEGIANS WANT TO POSTPONE ISSUE INDEFINITELY AND HOPE OIL IS NEVER FOUND. GRIEG THOUGHT FRENCH SIDE WAS MUCH MORE UNDERSTANDING OF THESE ARGUMENTS AND SHOWED THEY PARTICULARLY SYMPATHETIC TO AND KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT NORWAY'S STRATEGIC CONCERNS. IN THE END, DE LABOULAYE TOLD FRYDENLUND THAT FRENCH "UNDERSTOOD" THE PROBLEM AND THAT HE WOULD UNDERTAKE TO "EXPLAIN" IT TO THE QUAI LAWYERS. DE LABOULAYE REITERATED ON SECOND DAY THAT HE WOULD ASK QUAI LAWYERS TO TAKE "FURTHER LOOK" BUT MADE NO COMMITMENT.

6. COMMENT: WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT, AS RESULT SHARP LEGAL DISCUSSION ON CONTINENTAL SHELF AND BECAUSE OF FRENCH DISAPPOINTMENT OVER NORWEGIAN FAILURE TO EMPHASIZE NON-DISCRIMINATORY NATURE OF THEIR PROPOSED SVALBARD FISHING REGIME (SEPTTEL), BOTH SIDES FOUND EXCHANGE RATHER DISAPPOINTING. GRIEG, FOR INSTANCE, REITERATED THAT FRYDENLUND LEFT "SOMEWHAT DISCOURAGED," I.E., WITH IMPRESSION LEGAL IMPASSE HAD ONLY BEEN CONFIRMED. WE OURSELVES THINK THAT IT WAS CERTAINLY UNFORTUNATE NORWEGIANS LET THEMSELVES IN FOR EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF THEIR LEGAL POSITION ON SHELF, WHICH COULD ONLY GET QUAI LAWYERS' BACKS UP. HOWEVER IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED

THAT DE LABOULAYE MOVED IN, IN CONSTRUCTIVE SENSE, AS

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SOON AS DISCUSSION SHIFTED TO PRAGMATIC NEED TO GO SLOWLY IN ESTABLISHING A CONTINENTAL SHELF REGIME UNDER NORWEGIAN ADMINISTRATION JUST AS HE DID DURING VINE DINNER, AND PROMISED HAVE QUAI LAWYERS TAKE ANOTHER LOOK. OBVIOUSLY IT IS TOO SOON TO SAY IF AND WHEN THIS MIGHT HAVE EFFECT. IT DOES STRIKE US HOWEVER THAT NORWEGIANS MAY HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY UNDERESTIMATED POSITIVE SIGNIFICANCE THESE REMARKS.

7. NORWEGIANS THEMSELVES DREW GREATEST HOPE FROM STRONG FRENCH INTEREST IN ECONOMIC ISSUES. NORWEGIANS WERE PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY INTENSITY FRENCH INTEREST IN OBTAINING NATURAL GAS AND IN PARTICIPATING IN OIL EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION, UNDER NORWEGIAN MANAGEMENT, NORTH OF 62ND PARALLEL. ON NATURAL GAS, GRIEG SAID SUPPLY IS LIMITED AND ALLOTMENTS HAVE BEEN LARGELY EXHAUSTED IN SALES TO FRG' UK AND DUTCH. ON PARTICIPATION NORTH OF 62ND PARALLEL FRENCH WERE TOLD THAT THIS WAS ESSENTIALLY COMMERCIAL MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED BY EXPERTS. NEVERTHELESS, GRIEG REITERATED THAT NORWEGIANS WERE STRUCK BY "GREAT FRENCH EAGERNESS" AND CONCLUDED (SPEAKING PERSONALLY) THAT HERE, PERHAPS, WAS KEY FOR A TRADE-OFF ON THE SVALBARD ISSUE -- ALTHOUGH HE THOUGHT THAT SATISFYING THE FRENCH IN THE ENERGY FIELD TOO WOULD PROVE DIFFICULT.

8. IN ADDITION NORWEGIANS DISCUSSED QUESTIONS OF 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE OFF MAINLAND' A ZONE WHICH THEY THOUGHT USSR WOULD "TACITLY ACCEPT." (QUESTION OF SECTOR LINE WAS NOT MENTIONED THIS CONNECTION.) THERE WAS ALSO LONG DISCUSSION OF RELATED FISHERIES ISSUE. FRENCH PREDICTABLY RESISTED NORWEGIAN INTEREST IN BILATERAL APPROACHES TO EC COUNTRIES AND INSISTED THAT NINE MUST NEGOTIATE AS GROUP. HOWEVER DE LABOULAYE WAS NOT AT ALL OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS OF REACHING EC AGREEMENT BY DECEMBER 1 AND SUGGESTED NORWEGIANS TRY TO INTERCEDE ONCE MORE WITH ICELAND. GRIEG ONLY COMMENTED THAT ICELANDIC POSITION WAS "VERY RIGID."

9. ONE CONCRETE RESULT OF VISIT WAS AGREEMENT TO CONTINUE NORWEGIAN-FRENCH DIALOGUE MORE REGULARLY AT FONMIN AND POLITICAL DIRECTORS LEVELS.

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